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Wildlife Conservation and National Parks

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The rich biodiversity of the Indian subcontinent makes it one of the most prominent 83
ecological regions on the entire planet. With over 100 national parks and more than 167
500 designated wildlife sanctuaries, the country provides a safe, natural habitat for 253
numerous endangered animal species. In the early 1970s, the alarming decline in the 337
population of the Royal Bengal Tiger forced the administration to take immediate, 419
strict action. Consequently, 'Project Tiger' was officially launched in April 1973; this 508
ambitious conservation program aimed to protect the apex predator from illegal 587
poaching and rampant habitat destruction. From a highly critical number of just 268 671
tigers in 1973, the population has successfully rebounded to over 3000 individuals by 757
the year 2023. This remarkable turnaround is frequently cited as one of the most 838
successful wildlife recovery models in global history. However, protecting these 919
magnificent creatures requires a highly complex, multi-layered administrative 997
approach. Forest guards and local rangers work relentlessly—often in extremely 1076
hostile conditions and without adequate medical facilities—to patrol vast stretches of 1163
dense jungles. To support their difficult ground operations, the forest department is 1249
increasingly adopting modern surveillance technology: high-definition camera traps, 1333
thermal imaging sensors, and unmanned aerial drones. These high-tech devices 1410
continuously monitor animal movements and immediately alert the authorities if any 1493
suspicious human activity is detected near the core forest zones. Another major 1573
ecological challenge is the escalating man-animal conflict. As human settlements 1654
rapidly expand and clear natural forests for agricultural use, wild animals frequently 1741
wander into local villages in search of food and water. Elephants and leopards often 1826
destroy cultivated crops or attack domestic livestock, leading to severe economic 1908
losses for poor farmers. In retaliation, angry villagers sometimes resort to poisoning 1995
or electrocuting these wild animals. To resolve this tragic cycle of violence, wildlife 2083
experts suggest creating wide, protected animal corridors; these dedicated forest 2165
strips allow large mammals to migrate safely between different national parks without 2251
crossing human habitats. Furthermore, integrating local tribal communities into the 2335
conservation process is absolutely essential for long-term ecological success. When 2419
indigenous people are actively employed as nature guides or anti-poaching patrol 2500
members, they develop a strong economic interest in protecting the forest. 2575
Eco-tourism has also emerged as a vital tool for generating conservation awareness 2658
and providing alternative livelihood options. Visitors from all over the world travel to 2747
famous reserves, eager to catch a rare glimpse of the one-horned rhinoceros or the 2830

elusive snow leopard. However, park authorities must ensure that the rapid influx of 2915
tourist vehicles does not disturb the natural breeding cycles of the wildlife. Strict 3001
regulations must limit the daily number of safari jeeps entering the protected zones. 3087
The global community must realize that the extinction of even a single species 3166
disrupts the fragile ecological balance. Protecting our natural heritage demands 3247
unwavering political will and continuous public support from all sections of society. 3333